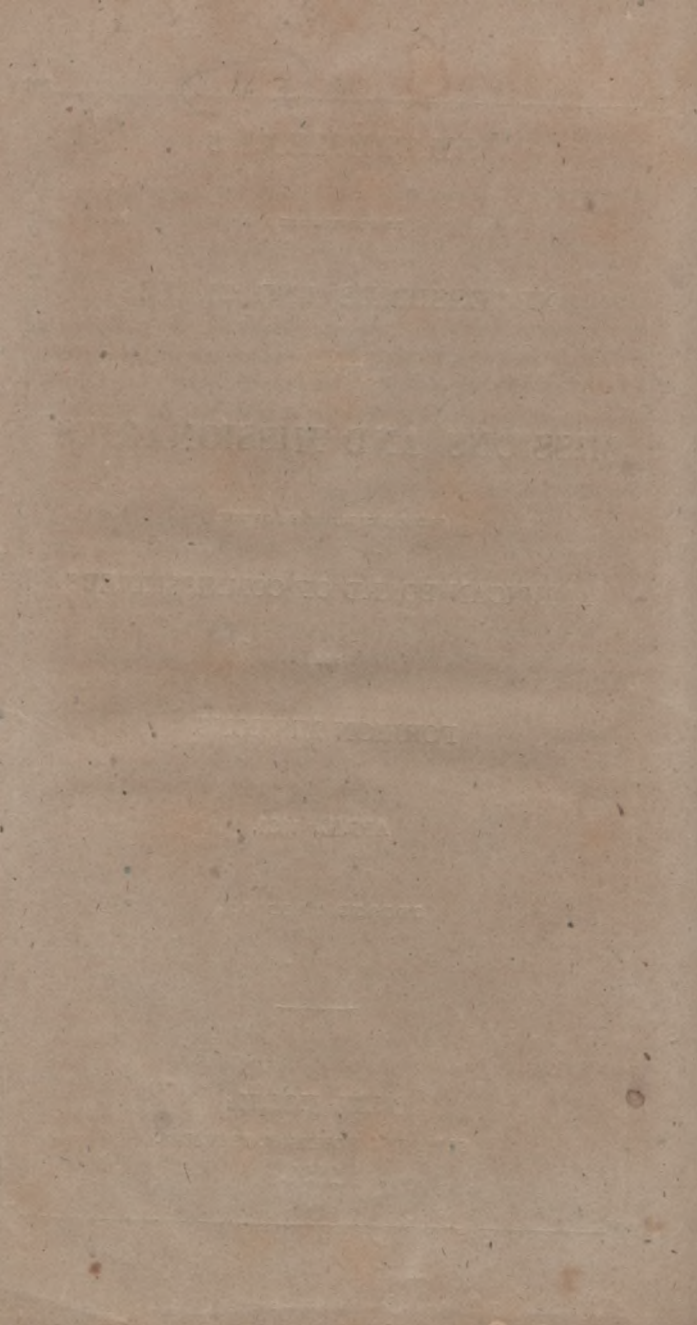


STATMENTS
RESPECTING THE
NECESSITIES AND CLAIMS
OF THE
MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES,
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR
FOREIGN MISSIONS.

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AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

STATEMENTS RESPECTING THE NECESSITIES AND CLAIMS OF THE MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD.

[Although the following numbers have been inserted in about a dozen of the religious newspapers in our country, it is deemed expedient to print them, with some omissions, in a connected form, and to disperse them in such a form among the friends of the missionary cause, in the three denominations of Christians, who are represented in the Board of Foreign Missions, and are equally interested in the prosperity of the missions under its care. The present exigency is one of a serious nature, though it will be easy for the churches to afford immediate and complete relief. Should they stand aloof, or not increase their contributions, that must happen which has never yet happened: viz. the Board must decline sending out some of the men, who are qualified for the missionary service, and have devoted themselves to it, and are anxious speedily to engage in it; and this must be done merely for the want of pecuniary aid, which the churches are able abundantly to furnish—and done, too, when the churches are blessed, beyond all former experience, with revivals of religion! Surely this cannot be. The present is not a time, in which to forget our duties to a world lying in wickedness. It is not a time, in which to begin to lay the chilling hand of avarice on the few men who are willing to spend their lives among the heathen, and so restrain them from conveying the gospel to the benighted and lost Pagans. To prevent such a result, is the object of the following statements, which were prepared in March and April, 1831.]

No. 1.

The Prudential Committee of the Board of Foreign Missions have not been unmindful of the duties incumbent on them in the present state of the Treasury of the Board. They have made known the fact extensively, that the receipts of last year fell 20,000 dollars below what they were the year before, and that, with diminished resources, it would not be possible to make ad-

vances in the work of filling the earth with the knowledge of the Lord. In their official publications, the claims of the missionaries who have gone forth from among us, and of the hundreds in the churches among the heathen gathered by those missionaries, and of the thousands in their schools, and of the multitudes whose attention they have begun to awaken to the gospel of Jesus—have been repeatedly urged upon the sympathies of the community.

The receipts since the first of September 1830, when the financial year of the Board commenced, have not been as great as they were in the same time last year. Shall they go on *decreasing* from year to year? The writer of these papers feels that the receipts of this present year, must in some way be made greater than they ever have been. That there is an urgent necessity for this, will be shown in a future number.

At present, attention is invited to the purport of several resolutions, which have lately been adopted by the Committee.

1. The Committee deem it exceedingly desirable to send, within eighteen months from this time, about twenty missionaries into the different missionary fields, already occupied, to some extent, by the Board; viz. Three or four to the East Indies and other parts of southern Asia—at least six to countries which are supplied from the Mediterranean mission—as many as six or seven to the Pacific Ocean—and at least three to the Indian tribes of this country.

2. While the Committee feel the great importance of enlarging their operations to the extent above mentioned, they cannot with propriety adopt measures which would be likely to increase the present debt of the Board, but are bound to aim at its speedy extinguishment.

3. They confidently believe, however, that the interest felt in this cause by the Christian community is such as to warrant the expectation, that sufficient pecuniary means may be obtained to carry forward the missions, which have been commenced and prosecuted by the Board in reliance on the promises of God, and in accordance with the known wishes of the churches.

The number of missionaries mentioned in the first resolution, is the *least* which the Committee suppose ought to be sent to the several missions in the time specified.

The second resolution virtually declares, that none, or very few, can be sent, as the receipts now are.

The third declares the confidence of the Committee—which I cannot doubt is well founded—that the means *may be* procured for sending out twenty missionaries, or even a greater number, within eighteen months.

I shall show, in a future number, that the missionaries can be obtained.

Reader, will you not bestow a moment's thought upon this case, when you enter your closet? What is the most solemn duty now resting upon the church of Christ, and upon yourself, if a member of that church? Can you bear a retrograde movement in an enterprise, the design of which is to proclaim the love of your Redeemer to a world exposed to endless ruin because it knows him not? Fifty missionary stations have been planted by the Board, acting as almoners of the churches; and at each of these stations are some of your brethren and sisters, who have gone out to the heathen with sacred pledges of support and co-operation in their hands. The Board, the Prudential Committee, are merely agents. These missions belong to the churches, and, under God, are dependent on the churches for all their efficiency. The Macedonian cry is heard from almost every one of these stations; and among the entreaties which strike our ears from every quarter, do we not distinguish, and can we resist, the voice of our brethren among the heathen?

No. 2.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, has now been in existence twenty years, having been organized in the year 1810. The history of its origin is well known. Four members of the Theological Seminary in Andover, Mass., having devoted their lives to the propagation of the gospel among the heathen, sought advice of their fathers in the ministry, convened in an ecclesiastical body, as to the best mode of accom-

plishing their design. This occasioned the appointment of the Board. But it will scarcely be believed, twenty years hence, that not one leading minister in our churches appears then to have conceived the possibility of obtaining funds enough in this country, to warrant the sending of these four young men to the heathen, without some foreign guaranty! One of the first measures, therefore, after the formation of the Board, was the deputing of one of the young men to England to ascertain, among other things, whether he and his brethren could be supported for a time, if necessary, by the London Missionary Society.

Meanwhile an effort was made to raise funds in this country, which succeeded beyond expectation, and five missionaries embarked in 1812 for India, at the expense of the American churches. These have since been followed into the heathen world by no less than EIGHTY preachers of the gospel, sent forth by the same Board; of whom about sixty are now in the field. The number sent out as physicians, printers, schoolmasters, etc., besides females, is at least equal to that of the preachers. The whole number of missionaries, and of assistant missionaries, male and female, now in foreign service, and dependent on funds placed at the disposal of the Board for their support and means of usefulness, is TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE.

Such has been the increase of laborers, in the twenty years since the organization of the Board;—slow, if compared with the wants of the immense generation of benighted men, two thirds of whom have passed into eternity since the Board was instituted—rapid, however, if compared with the most sanguine expectations of the first movers in this holy enterprise.

And what have been the beneficial results of this enterprise?

There has been a most salutary RE-ACTION upon the churches at home. The churches could not have employed eighty-five of their sons more to *their own* spiritual advantage. In point of fact, the funds, which have been expended on foreign missions, *would not* have been employed as usefully for ourselves, if they had been with-

held from the heathen. What has been given for foreign missions, has not been a mere subtraction from the consecrated wealth of our churches, a mere exportation without consequent income. Very far otherwise. What these missionaries have accomplished among the heathen, what they have written about the heathen, and what they have suffered for Christ, have been sending, all the while, an invaluable influence through our land. It is capable of being shown with certainty, that our churches are better supplied with ministers, that there are more candidates for the ministry, and more persons preparing for the sacred office, than there would have been, if we had kept all our ministers home. The same investigation would show, too, that we contribute more for the circulation of Bibles and Tracts, and for the establishment of Sabbath Schools, and for the institution of Domestic Missions, than we should do, in case none of our wealth was devoted to foreign missions. Our present revivals, too, rose with foreign missions, and have been increasing in power and glory, as missions have been extending among the heathen.

This *re-action* of foreign missions upon the churches at home, has been too much overlooked by missionaries and their patrons. The voice of Gordon Hall and of Pliny Fisk has been more extensively heard in their native land, coming from the plains of India, or the mountains of Palestine, than it would have been from any part of their own country; and the Sandwich Islands mission has been worth many times more to our churches than it has cost them.

The influence which our missions have exerted upon the *heathen world*, will form the subject of the next paper.

I only add, in this, that our churches cannot afford to do without foreign missions, and it is a fearful experiment to suffer them to decline. We may thus be letting go of the sheet-anchor of our spiritual prosperity. Regarding only our own religious welfare, and the success of those institutions which are designed chiefly for our own benefit, the Providence of God evidently calls upon us to extend our foreign operations. The more we export of our religion, the more we shall have at home. Here

we may scatter, and yet be enriched. Here, if we withhold more than is meet, it tendeth to poverty. The more missionaries we send abroad, the more ministers we shall have at home. Our domestic missions will keep pace with our foreign missions. The gospel will rise in our estimation with our efforts to send it to all nations; and our disposition will increase to make efforts and submit to self-denials to sustain it among ourselves. And as no command in the decalogue is plainer, or more binding, than that to publish the gospel to the heathen; as none comes to us with a higher sanction, and none (I had almost said) with such affecting motives to obedience;—we may well regard the duty and the interest of churches and individual Christians as eminently harmonizing in missions to the heathen.

No. 3.

The *re-action* of our foreign missions upon the churches which sustain them, is itself a sufficient compensation for the cost of those missions. It is more than that: the return has been “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over.”

We now pass to the *direct influence of the missions of the Board upon the heathen world.*

A moment's reflection will teach us, that but a part, and probably a small part, of this influence is open to distinct human observation. Who can look into the thousands of minds and hearts, to which our missionaries have access? Who can observe the happy changes and modifications in the thousands of family circles, effected by their conversations, preaching, and publications, and by the sight or report of their holy lives? Who can relate the particular histories of all their tracts, and of all the portions of God's word, which they have put in circulation?—Some of the more obvious facts are these:

Fifteen distinct missions have been established, some antipodes to others.

Fifty missionary stations have been formed, at each of which the gospel is regularly preached.

Three languages, before unwritten, have been reduced to writing, by persons in the employment of the Board.

The New Testament, and parts of the Old Testament, have been translated into three languages;—that of the Sandwich Islanders, after reducing the language to writing; that spoken by the great body of the Armenians; and that used by the 12,000,000 of the Mahratta people.

One of the Gospels has been translated into each of three Indian languages of North America.

All these translations have been made from the original languages of the holy scriptures, and by persons competent to the task.

Numerous other works have been prepared in *eleven* different languages—four spoken chiefly in Asia, one in Europe and Asia equally, one in Europe, one in Polynesia, and four in the forests of North America.

A printing establishment, with two presses, has been set up in the Sandwich Islands; another, with three presses, in the Mediterranean; a third, with two presses, in India; and a fourth is about being sent to China.

More than ten millions of pages have been printed at Bombay; a greater number at Malta; and a still greater number at the Sandwich Islands. The whole number of pages in the eleven languages, filled with matter prepared chiefly by our own missionaries, and printed at the expense of the Board, is nearly *forty millions*, most of them stored with divine truth.

Full 70,000 learners have enjoyed the benefit of our mission schools; and now, there is at least 50,000, the greater part adults.

Fifteen years ago, the populous northern district of Ceylon had not a single Christian school. Now, through the agency of the Board, more than 600 girls and more than 2700 boys are in schools designed primarily for teaching the rudiments of Christian knowledge; 195 are boarding scholars in more advanced studies under the immediate superintendence of our missionaries, viz. 115 in academies, 80 in a college; and 20, after having enjoyed the advantages of the college, are preparing for the ministry in a theological seminary. All of these institutions originated in the mission, and are sustained by it.

Ten years ago, there were no books in the Sandwich Islands, and there was no demand for them. Now, two

presses cannot supply the demand, though they print 600 reams of paper in a year, equivalent to 22,000 volumes of 300 pages each, or 800,000 tracts of eight pages.

Ten years ago, reading and writing were an unheard of, or unintelligible process to all the people, of every rank, in the Sandwich Islands : now, thousands write, and many thousands read.

Ten years ago, there was not a school in all the Sandwich Islands. Now, *six hundred* of the natives, instructed by our missionaries, are employed in teaching schools on the islands.

Ten years ago, the whole nation of the Sandwich Islands were ignorant of God, his law, and gospel—pagans—addicted to infanticide, intemperance, lewdness, and all the abominable vices of the lowest savage life—the whole mass of the people so corrupt, as to be rapidly diminished in number. Now, the moral law, contained in the ten commandments, is the law of the land ; the nation is professedly Christian ; the order, decency, and comfort of civilized life are rapidly gaining ground ; multitudes are exemplary in their morals, and not a few are truly pious.

It may be doubted, whether a strictly moral man or woman could have been found on the islands, ten years ago. Now, on Oahu alone, there is a society of *thirty-five hundred* natives, men and women, designed to meet weekly for prayer, the rules of which allow no immoral person to be a member. On the same island, too, there is another association of a *thousand* members, formed for religious inquiry and the suppression of vice ; and all its members solemnly engage not to distil, or buy, or sell, or drink, any kind of ardent spirits, or offer them to their friends, or give them to their laborers. In one district of another island, a society, requiring good morals as a condition of membership, has upwards of *five thousand* members.

Looking on the Sandwich Islands alone, see we not enough of benign and heavenly influence, to serve as an offset to all our expenditure ?

But taking the whole field again into view, we count more than *twelve hundred* converts from heathenism, in consequence of our missions, coming up, every commu-

nion day, to the Lord's Table, glad with the hopes of heaven.

A great and indispensable *work of preparation* has been accomplished. When the Board was instituted, much land was to be possessed, and most of it was unexplored. Large tracts have since been surveyed, and some forests cleared ; much ground has been broken, and much good seed sown. In several, the time of harvest is not yet come ; but here and there, over hill and dale and plain, the harvest waves.

Of late years there has been an apparent acceleration of our work :

More than half the converts in our missionary churches were admitted within three years past.

More than a third of our learners came into the schools within the same time.

More than a fourth part of our printing has been done within two years.

The demand for missionaries has increased rapidly within a few years ; not so much from new developments of the baleful influence of heathenism, as from the increasing facilities, the brightening prospects, for missionary exertions, in some of the fields we have providentially been led to occupy.

In most of these fields a missionary can now enter sooner on his work, and can do more work in the same time, and to better advantage than he could some years ago. He much sooner learns the language, manners, customs, prejudices, and necessities of the people. He learns to converse and preach sooner ; and the press, with the increasing ability and disposition to read among the people around him, increases his power amazingly. There is, therefore, not only an increase in the demand for missionaries, but in the value of missionary service. A missionary is worth more, and there is more inducement to become a missionary.

Meanwhile it may be asked, whether, in view of the beneficial influence of these missions at home and abroad, the churches will not consent to sustain and enlarge them ? Is there any way of spending a portion of our wealth to better advantage ? Is there any way, in which

we can, by our prayers, our wealth, and our labors, bring more glory to God, and more good to man?

No. 4.

My object in this paper, is not to inquire how many missionaries ought to be sent to the heathen world, nor what proportion of the whole number devolves in equity upon the American churches; but simply, *what reinforcements the Board ought to send, during the next eighteen months, to the various missions under its care.* My aim is not to make the number as great as possible, but only so many as shall be necessary to secure the results of our past labors and expenditures, and make some progress, on the whole, in our work.

The missions of the Board may be classed under these four heads;—the Mediterranean, the East Indies, the Islands of the Pacific, and the North American Indians.

1. In the Mediterranean, our principal attention, for several years, has been directed to the Greeks, the Armenians, and the mixed people of Mount Lebanon and Palestine. Malta is to us a mere manufactory of books.—In liberated Greece, our only missionary is Mr. King, who desires an associate, and ought to have one. The great body of the Greeks, however, are not inhabitants of Greece, but are still under Turkish rule; and towards them the Ottoman policy is said of late to have become more kind and liberal than formerly, in order to prevent their emigrating into Greece. We ought to send three or four missionaries to the Greeks of European and Asiatic Turkey.—Mr. Smith is to take charge of the printing establishment at Malta, and Messrs. Temple and Goodell will probably remove to Constantinople. Should Mr. Dwight, who has been exploring Armenia with Mr. Smith, devote his life to the Armenians, he will soon be in need of a companion.—In Syria are only Messrs. Bird and Whiting, who ask for aid; and two men should be sent to form a station in their neighborhood, within the bounds of ancient Palestine.

2. It is eleven years since the mission in Ceylon was reinforced, and two new missionaries are greatly needed

there ; one as a preacher of the gospel, the other as a professor in the mission seminary. Recent intercourse with the government gives reason to hope, that such an accession would be permitted.—A press is about to be sent to China, and the encouraging aspect of that mission, with the repeated calls that have lately reached the Board from Siam, renders it highly probable, that duty will require another missionary to be sent to that part of the world within eighteen months.

3. In the Sandwich Islands there are now eleven preachers. Three others are on their way. One of these, however, with one of the laborers now at the Sandwich Islands, is destined to the Marquesas ; and I fear, that by the time the other two are able to preach in the Hawaiian language, one or more of the older missionaries, whose health is much impaired, will be laid aside from labor. The population of the Sandwich Islands, at the lowest computation, is 150,000 and no where on earth do we know of so large a community equally attentive to the preached word of God, and apparently so desirous of religious instruction. Divide that people among twelve missionaries, and each has 12,500 souls. This, considering all the circumstances of the case, is an overwhelming charge. Ought not the number of missionaries on those islands to be immediately *doubled* ? Where could four-and-twenty ministers of Christ be employed with such a prospect that each, in a very few years, would reap an abundant harvest of souls ? Beyond a doubt, *six* more missionaries, if not twelve, should be sent to those islands in the time specified.—To the Marquesas Islands, we are invited by the high priest of the islands ; and we go there with very encouraging prospects. We ought to send two missionaries, and perhaps four, to the Marquesas.

4. The unhappy tribes of Indians in the southwestern parts of our own country, are too unsettled at present, to justify an enlargement of the missions among them ; except among the two or three thousand emigrant Creeks, westward of the Arkansas territory, and near the Union mission, among whom there has been a revival of religion, and a church formed, and who urgently request a missionary. One should be sent to them. And there

are circumstances, arising out of the influence of our mission at Mackinaw, which imperiously require two men to be sent, this next summer, to the numerous tribes in the northwest, speaking the Chippewa language.

Here, then, according to the most moderate estimate, are not less than TWENTY missionaries, required to be sent to our several missions during the year and a half to come.

They are needed ;—

1. *To preach the Gospel.* This requires no particular illustration.

2. *To prepare books.* There is an immense labor of this kind to be done. We are too apt to forget, that *all* the countries upon which the gospel does not shine, are nearly destitute of such books as are profitable to be read. Of elementary school-books, such as we should approve, there are very few, probably none at all. Books must be provided, or our progress will be slow, and always limited : for how shall converts among the heathen cease to be children in knowledge, if destitute of the means of learning ?

3. *For the personal and frequent visitation and inspection of schools.* Many of the schools now established can be visited but once or twice a year, and some never.

The fact is, our missionaries in foreign lands, regarded as a body, have not strength for the multifarious cares and labors, that have come upon them in consequence of the *success*, with which God has crowned their exertions. In general, their *pastoral* labors are sufficient, and, at the Sandwich Islands, more than sufficient, to fill up their time ; while, in most of the missions, there is an urgent call for the greater part of their time to be spent in the translation of the Scriptures, or the preparation of other books.

Are reasons still required, why these reinforcements should be sent within a short period ? The magnitude of the work, is one reason. The time necessarily consumed in learning languages, before any thing can be done in the way of preaching and translating, is another. Should these missionaries be sent next autumn, two years will elapse before they will be fluent in the languages of

their respective fields. Another reason is derived from the peculiar condition of several of the people, to whom our missions are sent. Greece and the Greeks will never be as accessible, probably, to religious influence from this generation, as at this moment. The same may be true of the Armenians. And at the Sandwich Islands, unless there is a great deal more preaching than is possible with the present number of laborers, attention will be likely to decline, and opposition to rear its head. Another reason is, that three fourths of the twenty men so much needed at the several missions are not only accepted missionaries of the Board, but have either completed their studies preparatory to the ministry, or will have completed them next autumn, and most of them will then be ready and anxious to go forth to their work. The feelings, which some of them have in view of their probable detention for want of funds, I may perhaps exhibit at a future time. It ought to be generally known, that three quarters of the men required to be sent out this year, and most probably the whole number, will be in readiness to go before the year has expired. Another reason is, that young men, just from the seminary, cannot now labor as agents so advantageously as they formerly could. If they *must* be detained, how shall they be employed? Shall they be told to preach to destitute churches, or engage in domestic missions? They reply, that they have devoted themselves to foreign missions—to the heathen—that life is short, and they are considerably advanced in life—that some of them have long voyages to make, and afterwards a foreign language, and the manners, customs, and prejudices of a strange people, to learn. They say ‘We are ready to leave our parents and country—ready to encounter the perils of the deep, and of an untried clime—ready to take up our abode, and spend our days, among the heathen—ready, we trust, to forsake all for this work of our Lord and Master. Why, then, are we detained?’ And truly, why should they be detained? and shall they be? On the one hand, we see the harvest, and on the other, the reapers impatient to enter it; and surely when the Lord of the harvest has graciously provided the laborers, his disciples cannot withhold the pecuniary means

for conveying them to the field. In view of these facts, *the GREATER PART of the MEMBERS of the Gentlemen's Missionary Associations in Boston, and EVERY ONE OF THE MISSIONARY ASSOCIATIONS in that city, have, within two months past, made considerable advances upon their last year's subscriptions.* Let donors and Associations generally through the country do the same, and the means will be provided, and the missionaries soon be on their way to their respective fields of labor.

No. 5.

Never, until the present time, has the Board seen any thing that might be termed a *crisis* in its affairs. It has always been able to send out all suitable men, who applied for an appointment as missionaries, and never rejected any such man for want of funds. Never has there been a necessity, to my knowledge, of saying to its accepted missionaries, as a body, 'You cannot be sent forth until funds are more liberally afforded by the churches.' Candidates for missionary employment, connected with the Board, were, therefore, never placed in just such a situation as they now are. This situation has been very frankly explained to them. They have been exhorted not to be disheartened, and not, by any means, to relinquish their purpose of being missionaries, "if the Lord will;" but have been told how the case stands, and that it *may be* some time before the churches furnish the means requisite for sending them forth.

This has called forth from these brethren, most of whom are in senior classes of theological seminaries in New England and the Middle States, a general and affecting expression of feeling, which ought to be known to the friends of missions. From their letters, now lying before me, I will quote some of the passages, that briefly illustrate the manner in which they are affected by their present prospects. One, who completed his studies last autumn, and has been waiting several months, thus writes :

"Nearly eleven years ago, I left the plough, and commenced my Latin grammar, with the hope that God might

make use of me in preaching the gospel of his dear Son in some of the dark places of the earth. This hope has never been abandoned, nor my purpose lost sight of. My debts are now nearly paid, and as you have signified a willingness to employ me in preaching Christ to the heathen, I am ready to ask, Why wait I longer in America? Thirty years of my life are now gone. During eleven of these years I have had a mission in anticipation, and if I am ever to do any thing directly for the salvation of the heathen, is it not high time for me to be in the field? Nearly 200,000,000, who were sitting in heathen darkness when I first began to think of a missionary life, have since passed into eternity, ignorant of the gospel of salvation! Every month that I delay, the congregation of the unevangelized dead is increased by a million and a half, while the sands of my own life are running with the utmost rapidity. Could we go in this warfare at our own charges, I feel confident there are not a few who would make the attempt. But oceans cannot be traversed, nor bibles distributed, and schools established, without expense; and this cannot be borne by those who have *nothing*, and who consecrate *themselves* to laboring directly for the salvation of the heathen. Can you not devise some way for us to go?"

Is there a disciple of Christ, who can say to this man, 'Your long projected mission to the heathen must be deferred still longer?' O Christian, how can you pray the Lord of the harvest to raise up laborers, if you refuse to send those into the field, whom he graciously provides?

Another of the accepted missionaries of the Board, who has had a mission in view ever since he commenced his preparations for the ministry, writes in this manner:

"I have not property to give, but I will give my life. This is the only way I can satisfy my conscience, unless Providence should interpose some unforeseen obstacle to prevent my becoming a missionary. To preach that NAME, which all heaven adores, among the heathen, is the highest honor my heart desires in this world, and I am anxious to be sent forth as soon as possible. Life at longest is short, and there is much to be done, before full access can be had to the heathen; and they are perish.

ing even while their imploring hands are stretched out to the Christian world for help. Thousands and thousands of them would embrace the gospel, if it were preached to them. The missionaries already in the field also send back the earnest solicitation, *Come over and help us*. Their appeals come with peculiar force to such as are about entering the ministry. Sinking under the burden of their toils and responsibilities, they must be sustained by their younger brethren. If I had the means of transporting myself to the heathen, and of sustaining myself there, I would cheerfully use them. I must look to the Board, and I cannot believe that the churches will allow me to be detained long at home ; for I ask no more than barely sufficient to prosecute my missionary work."

Another gives utterance to his feelings in the following language :

"With the command of Christ sounding in our ears, must we be compelled to waste our energies, impair our resolutions, and lose the best portion of our lives, in tedious delay, because the professed people of God do not realize and love their duty ? But I would not criminate my brethren. Rather does it become me to be deeply penitent for my own past indifference, and refer it to Christ, my Lord, to take his own time for sending me to the benighted pagans. I remember, however, that even in those pagan countries, which have learned something of the gospel, a thousand souls are dropping into eternity every day ! O, then, what missionary of the cross can bear to linger needlessly a single day ? And what Christian will not urge him to speed his way to rescue these perishing souls ?"

One, on being told that it was doubtful when the churches would afford the means of sending him out, is very earnest in expressing his feelings.

"Deny me," he says, in reference to the churches, "deny me when, perishing with hunger, I beg the crumbs that fall from your table—hold me back, when running to the relief of a drowning stranger—stop me, as I rush to snatch the friend of my bosom from the devouring flames—discourage me, when struggling to save my beloved country from the ruin of intemperance, sabbath-

breaking, slavery, or war,—nay more, prevent me, when urging sinners in a Christian land to flee from the wrath to come : but oh keep me not back from preaching the gospel to the perishing heathen.”

Another writes thus, in view of the same information when communicated to him :

“ Resolved to abandon all the endearments of native land, and all the blessings of Christian society, and with my life in my hand, and Christ as my guide, go and labor and die in the cause of the heathen, if the American Board would send me, I applied—the Board received me—and now my feelings are simply the following : The heathen world is calling—calling by all their willingness to receive, by all the doors thrown wide open for the entrance of the truth, by all their thousands and thousands that daily go to people the abodes of eternal wo, and by all their solemn and immediate claims on Christians and Christian ministers. The God of the heathen is urging, and the blood of Calvary is pressing, and the Spirit of the Eternal is crying, ONWARD ; and the tremendous consequences of refusing, forbid a lingering or withholding disposition. With the united force of all these calls weighing upon my soul, together with the uncertainty of life, the thought of being detained long at home, *I cannot endure.*”

And says another :

“ I have nothing to detain me, and it is my wish to be sent out as soon as possible. When I see how the Lord is pouring out his Spirit in many parts of our land, and enlarging our Zion, I feel anxious that our churches should increase their missionary efforts in proportion as they are themselves increased, and thus the revival and missionary spirit go hand in hand, each sustaining and strengthening the other. I look, too, at the revivals in our colleges, and long to see new stations formed among the heathen, to which some of those, now converted in our colleges, may be sent.”

Two of the foregoing extracts are taken from letters written by young men connected with the Presbyterian Church. Another, who was born in the valley of the Mississippi, writes in this manner :

“The claims of the valley of the Mississippi have been an obstacle to my going on a mission to the heathen. But when I remembered that all the people there, were in reach of salvation, and that the bible would soon be in every family, and when I saw so large a number of candidates for the ministry turning their attention to that part of the country as the scene of their future labors; when I contrasted their condition and prospects with those of the dying heathen, the apparent difficulty vanished. I plainly saw that if the mere existence of destitute places in that region ought to decide my duty, on the same principle no missionaries ought to leave this country, and on the same principle the Apostles would not have left Judea, and we should have been left in pagan darkness. It further appeared that there was no danger of the churches at home suffering loss by sending the gospel abroad; for ‘they that water shall also be watered themselves.’ The danger lies on the other side—in ‘withholding more than is meet.’”

Another says:

“It is in my heart to live and die, to spend and be spent, in this work. Where God says, *go*, in his name I will go; what he commands me to *do*, in his strength I will attempt. And I pray God, that my whole soul and spirit and body may be consecrated to the good work of building up Christ’s kingdom in the heathen world.”

In the file of letters lying before me, are found similar expressions of feeling from nearly all those accepted missionaries of the Board—fifteen or sixteen in number—who will be ready to enter the field within the year to come; but more cannot here be quoted. And is there need of more? The question now before the churches and ministers of Christ, and before each Christian, is, *Shall these missionaries be detained from the heathen world, against their will, solely by the want of pecuniary means for sending them forth?* The demand for their labors was explained in the last paper. They are greatly needed: and the men are qualified for the service—their hearts are set upon it—their convictions of duty all impel them to it—and they entreat that the churches will not detain them. Ye churches of Christ, bought with his blood,

will *ye* detain them? On *you* rests the whole responsibility. *You* must decide. The case is a plain one. If there is not a speedy and general rise in the contributions to the Board, similar to that lately witnessed in the Missionary Associations of the city of Boston, or if rich men do not come forward with their generous donations, most of these devoted men must be detained from the mission they are so anxious to prosecute.

No. 6.

The brief statements respecting the affairs of the Board, which I had in view on commencing these papers, are now completed. I have endeavored to avoid exaggeration, and to exhibit only the plain matter of fact. Nothing more was necessary in order to show, that we have been brought into an exigency and a crisis, of a very serious nature. It is a question, which will be decided before the expiration of the present year, whether the *foreign* missionary enterprise, as conducted by the Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed Dutch churches of the United States, shall receive such a check, as cannot fail to be most unhappy in its consequences; and that, too, almost at the commencement of our career, and while we are blessed with unexampled effusions of the Holy Spirit.

All will admit, that the Board ought not to increase its present debt; and the committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Board to investigate the annual expenditure at home, did not think the cause would be promoted by any present diminution there. Abroad, no material reduction can be made in the expenses, except by dismissing a part of the schools, printing fewer books, or recalling some of the missionaries. Last year the receipts of the Board fell considerably short of its expenditures, and this year the receipts are not as much as they were last. Yet, the spiritual prosperity of our missions, on the whole, was never so encouraging, and the demand for missionaries was never so great, as at this moment. Nor were so many candidates for missionary employment ever under the direction of the Board, at any one time,

nor so many ready and importunate to be sent to the heathen, as there will be next autumn. At the same time there are unprecedented embarrassments, so far as the Board is concerned, in the way of sending additional missionaries to the heathen—arising, however, solely from a deficiency of pecuniary means.

The making of these statements has been regarded as due to the churches, to whom, under God, these missions belong. If the missions established by the churches are in danger of suffering, those churches ought surely to be apprised of the fact. Such statements are due, also, to the missionaries, who have been sent into the field; and to the churches and schools they have gathered among the heathen; and to the thousands of benighted souls they have begun to enlighten by the gospel. They are due to the men, who, in obedience to the will of their Lord and Saviour, have devoted themselves to the propagation of the gospel among the heathen, and are not yet sent forth. They are due to our own souls, which could not otherwise be saved from blood-guiltiness. Yes, and they are due to our divine Master, who cannot but take a lively interest in an enterprise, the design of which is to extend the benefits of his atonement throughout heathen lands.

The writer of these papers claims no right, and he has no disposition, to dictate to his brethren. Stationed, however, as a watchman on one of the towers of Zion, commanding a wide prospect of the great and terrible wilderness of this world, and overlooking some of the positions which Zion has taken and is endeavoring to secure among the enemies of her King, silence, at such a time as this, would be a dereliction from duty. The monitory note should be raised.

And now, what shall be done?

First of all, let not *candidates for missionary employment* be discouraged. The churches will not disregard their plea. Observe how the Lord is pouring out his Spirit—the spirit of revivals, the spirit of missions. The benevolence of our churches is not declining: it has only been diverted, in some measure, from foreign missions, but may be expected soon to return, with augmented zeal, and

with a spring-tide of blessings for the heathen. Stand firm, therefore, to your resolutions, in humble dependence on God, continuing instant in prayer, and doing all in your power to awaken interest in the subject; and ere long you shall see the treasury so replenished, that you will be greeted with the summons you so much desire, to go forth with the gospel of salvation to the Gentiles.

Pious students, preparing for the ministry, should see to it that foreign missions are not embarrassed, two or three years hence, as they have been in past times, for want of missionaries. We hope the churches will send her fifteen or twenty men, now ready or soon to be ready, all into the field within a year and a half from this time. But these will only support the *present* demand. Let it be an axiom in all your inquiries respecting your duty to the heathen, that the demand for missionaries will increase from year to year. More and more laborers will be needed; and should it be your duty to go, and should you be humbly, but inflexibly resolved, though you may experience some delay, the churches, in this set time to favor all nations with the light of the gospel, will not refuse to send you.

Pastors of churches will permit me respectfully to ask, whether the present exigency in the affairs of the Board is not of sufficient consequence to require their particular attention? Will they not take an early opportunity to explain the case to their people? Will they not endeavor to secure for the cause a general and liberal patronage?

The *Secretaries, Treasurers, and Executive Committees* of Auxiliary Societies are entreated to exert themselves in a special manner in their several spheres. Unless the Auxiliaries make an advance upon former years, the Parent Institution will not. Will you not resolve upon securing a liberal advance in the receipts of your Auxiliary? You have the advantage of a strong plea; and most kinds of business are now prosperous, and revivals of religion are warming the hearts of Christians, and multiplying the friends to the cause, and augmenting the consecrated wealth of the churches.

Upon the *Collectors* in the Missionary Associations devolves a solemn responsibility; for it is almost certain,

that if they neglect to solicit from any individual, that individual's subscription for the year will be lost to the cause. Let them now carry an application to every man and woman, concerning whom there is any probability that the application will be kindly received. One great reason of the decline in the receipts for eighteen months past, has been, that the five or six thousand Collectors in the twelve or fifteen hundred Associations formed in aid of the Board, have not, as a body, made as great exertions, as they did immediately after their Associations were organized.

The receipts into the Treasury of the Board from September 1, 1830, to March 31, 1831, that is, for seven months of the current financial year, have been \$46,000. Supposing the receipts for the five months to come to be in the same proportion, or about \$6,500 per month, the income for the year will be only \$79,000. Last year it was \$83,000, and the year before last, about \$106,900. At the rate of the receipts during the last seven months, we are in danger the present year, of falling *nearly thirty thousand dollars* below the receipts of the year 1829! Shall this be the record of a year, blessed beyond all other years with revivals of religion, when thousands of souls will be added to the churches, and hundreds of thousands of property solemnly consecrated to Christ? It must not be. The danger needs but to be known, in order to be averted. Prompt and energetic measures, however, will be necessary. Nearly \$100,000 will be requisite to meet the unavoidable expenses of the current year, and to pay the balance owed by the Board when the financial year commenced. The cost of sending fifteen or twenty missionaries, with their wives, into remote fields, will be an additional expense of considerable amount, and ought to be provided for before the expiration of the year 1831.

And it may be. How many men are there in the churches, each of whom might be responsible for one missionary? How many churches are there, which might do the same? And how easily may the whole sum of thirty or forty thousand dollars be contributed, which is needed, beyond what is likely to be received on the pre-

sent scale of charity. To say nothing of the new helpers all over the country, whom a little pains may secure to the cause, it requires only an advance of *one half* upon what the present donors are accustomed to give :—that the man who gives one dollar, should give a dollar and a half ; that the man, who gives ten dollars, should give fifteen ; and that he, who has given one hundred, should add fifty to his donation. The advance recently made by the patrons of the Board in Boston, was of this nature, as to its general result ; and that, too, immediately after demands had been made upon their liberality for domestic objects, almost unexampled even in that city. Not a few doubled their subscriptions ; and it appeared to be a point settled in the minds of donors generally, that *every Association* must go beyond the contributions of the last year.

The case is now left with the friends of Zion, who will decide, in view of their duty to the benighted heathen and to the Lord Jesus, whether this sacred cause shall rise, or decline. Whichever way they decide, the welfare of immortal souls is deeply concerned. Should the Board be enabled to send out its missionaries without delay, there can be no doubt that many souls will be rescued from the dominion of sin, and be exalted to the felicity of heaven, who otherwise must sink into endless perdition. The rescue of these souls is an object transcending in importance all our worldly schemes. It furnishes a powerful motive for hearts, quickened by the reviving influences of God's Spirit, or regenerated by his new-creating grace. How delightful to think of the number of such hearts now in our beloved country, and of the rapid increase of that number. This awakens hope—confident expectation—a joyful assurance, that relief will come ; and should it come, to God be the glory.

POSTSCRIPT.

The number of communicants in each of the three denominations, which are represented in the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, is as follows, according to the Quarterly Register of the American Education Society for February, 1831.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Presbyterian, | - - - - - | 173,329 |
| Orthodox Congregational, | - - - - - | 140,000 |
| Dutch Reformed, | - - - - - | 17,888 |

The American Board of Foreign Missions is composed of 66 clergymen and laymen, belonging to the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Dutch Reformed churches, in the following proportions, viz.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|----|
| Presbyterians, | - - - - - | 31 |
| Congregationalists, | - - - - - | 28 |
| Dutch Reformed, | - - - - - | 7 |

The whole number of *Missionaries*, or preachers of the gospel, under the direction of the Board, is 60.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|----|
| Presbyterians, | - - - - - | 34 |
| Congregationalists, | - - - - - | 24 |
| Dutch Reformed, | - - - - - | 2 |

These proportions may not be stated with perfect accuracy, but the error, if there is one, is very small. The churches connected with the missions among the Indians are Presbyterian. The Presbyterian church is represented, also, in the missions in the Sandwich Islands, in India, and the Mediterranean; but the Congregational preachers in those missions are the most numerous. One of the two missionaries belonging to the Dutch Reformed church is in Ceylon, the other is in China.

It is believed, that the Prudential Committee have never expressed to their missionaries, directly or indirectly, any opinion, or wish, relative to the form of church government they should adopt in the organization of the mission churches. The missionaries have always been left to determinethis point for themselves, according to their own views of expediency and duty.

The Board sustains *precisely the same* relation, in all respects, to the ecclesiastical judicatories, or associations, of the three denominations with which it is connected.

The Board is in little danger of becoming unfriendly to the truth, and can never become formidable to it; for, as soon as it could be proved to be corrupt in doctrine or practice, it would at once lose its means of supporting missions among the heathen.